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Good News For Tree Lovers

The Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association, 932 East 50th Street, Chicago 15, Illinois. Telephone ATLantic 5-2215.

TO THE EDITOR:

These stories of good news about trees have been assembled for your use, and glossy prints of the pictures on this page will be sent you promptly on request to this association.

Trees are the nation's most valuable natural assets; shade and ornamental trees are community assets whose monetary value cannot be measured.

Information on this sheet is based upon exhaustive research and authoritative opinion compiled by this association. Additional facts on America's great new American elm are available. Plans are under way to supply you this information periodically.

AUGUSTINE ASCENDING ELM RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
932 East 50th Street, Chicago 15, Illinois

Experts Tell Basic Points of Satisfactory Tree Selection

The best guide to selection of shade and ornamental trees is to determine, first, the purposes for which the trees are to be planted; second, the conditions to which they must adjust themselves; third, the varieties most suited to satisfactory growth under city restrictions; and, finally, individual preference.

The fact that individual preference is often given precedence over other factors in tree selection may account for unsatisfactory shade tree conditions in some communities.

"What is the best tree for city planting?" remains, in itself, unanswerable. As well ask what is the best suit for a man to wear, without asking the size of his body, the nature of his employment, the desires of his taste, and the capacities of his purse.

The American Arborists Association lists 26 popular varieties of shade trees as examples from which satisfactory selections may be made, with characteristic shape and height at maturity, as follows:

LARGE TREES		
Name	Shape	Height
American Elm	Vertical	75'-100'
Tulip Tree	Oval	75'-100'
Hickory	Spreading	60'-90'
American Sycamore	Spreading	75'-100'
Plane	Oval	60'-80'
Sugar Maple	Oval	60'-80'
Honeylocust	Spreading	75'-90'
Pin Oak	Conical	60'-90'
Red Oak	Oval	60'-90'
White Oak	Spreading	75'-100'
Beech	Spreading	75'-100'
White Ash	Spreading	75'-90'

MEDIUM TREES		
Name	Shape	Height
Sweet Gum	Conical	40'-60'
Linden	Oval	40'-60'
Buckeye	Oval	40'-50'
Horse Chestnut	Oval	40'-50'
White Birch	Oval	40'-50'

SMALL TREES		
Name	Shape	Height
Dogwood	Rounded	15'-30'
Redbud	Spreading	15'-30'
Hornbeam	Spreading	15'-30'
Ironwood	Oval	15'-30'
Goldenrain	Conical	20'-30'
Hawthorn	Rounded	15'-25'
Flowering Crabapple	Spreading	15'-25'
	Rounded	15'-40'

While selection of trees is somewhat a matter of preference, tree experts have established some basic standards of purpose and conditions to which trees must conform to provide satisfaction for this generation and those to come.

These have been summarized by the Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association as follows:

GENERAL: Adaptability to climate and soil conditions is important. Rate of growth and size and shape at maturity must be considered. Reasonable initial cost and economy of maintenance are important to budget limitations.

PARKS: A combination of varieties, shapes, and sizes is desirable for an over-all landscaping program. Trees with neat growing habits are desirable to permit proper maintenance and growth of lawns. Flowering trees and shrubs are important. Small spreading trees and shrubs should be planted with care so that misuse of park areas will not be encouraged. Specimen trees of unusual varieties add interest in limited numbers.

STREETS: Because of traffic conditions, most small trees are undesirable, constitute hazards and are being removed in large numbers where they were planted in horse and buggy days. Medium trees are often preferred and frequently desirable for a compact landscaping effect, but should not be low-branched varieties which tend to reduce traffic visibility. Tall-growing bushy or spreading trees interfere with overhead utilities. Such cases can only be corrected by removal of large limbs. Compact large varieties have many advantages. Lower limbs can be trimmed for traffic visibility without affecting appearance of tree. Trees selected for street planting should be characterized by sturdy crotches and strong branches, with maximum indestructibility. Trees that are subject to breaking branches are costly in upkeep. Compactly deep-rooted trees are desirable, for such trees do not have tendencies to high root growth above or spreading surface roots that may damage sidewalks and paving.

CEMETERIES: Selection should be much the same as for parks, except that trees having spiritually aesthetic form at maturity are desirable in generous numbers. It is especially important that trees interfere very little with lawn growth and general maintenance, which is the mark of a well-kept cemetery and memorial park.

GOLF COURSES: The trees chosen for golf course planting may well be the architectural mark of the course. Varieties should be selected for enhancement of grounds and buildings, enclosure hedges, and easy influence on growth and maintenance of lawns.

Finds Trees May Be Adjusting to Natural Changes

Changing environment may well be a greater factor in temporary tree plagues than disease or insect pests, in the opinion of August P. Beilmann of the arboretum of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Dr. Beilmann states that there is no static ecological balance ever achieved in nature but that this balance is dynamic, always changing. He applies this principle to American shade trees. He finds that the present tree plantations of the Middle West cover areas which were grasslands only 130 years ago, and that almost all of the trees planted on the highways, in parks, countryside, and yards of America are of the bottomland varieties — elms, sycamores, pin oaks, etc.

Consequently, he believes, these bottomland trees "have been growing on the drier sites for such a short time that we may hardly expect them to be fully adjusted." He concludes from this that "ravages of phloem necrosis may be due, in part, to the fact that we have been attempting to use a bottomland tree on what had very recently been grassland," and that "chestnut blight and oak wilt are merely an expression of incomplete adjustment to a changing environment."

The Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association, which has made exhaustive studies of influences affecting shade trees, noted recently that the elm tree may be traced through a geological history covering more than 60 million years, during which there was no geological era in which evidence of elm trees have not been found. Geologists have found, though, that in some geological eras there have been numerous varieties of elm, and in following eras there may have been only a half to a third as many, while the next era had again a greater number of varieties.

Based on such evidence as this, and on many other studies, the association believes that some of the so-called elm plagues of the present day are a result of nature's trying to achieve a new ecological balance, and that this new balance will be achieved when new strains of trees are evolved which grow well on both high and low water-table ground.

Supporting this conviction, the association has guaranteed all Augustine Ascending Elms against mortality from any virus or fungus, and has included specifically any Augustine elms planted to replace any other variety of elm trees which have died from any cause, less than as the principal one.



Augustine Ascending Elm is especially adaptable for planting in central areas of city because compact root system requires minimum pavement opening, insures against interference with underground utilities, and maintains and provides strong anchorage for tree. This picture was taken in Winnetka, Ill., where garden club selected Augustine Ascending Elms to beautify business street.

Elm Tree Has Secure Place America's Most Loved Tree for Generations

One cannot observe a row of elms without being impressed with their beauty and a realization of how poor the world would be without them.

The elm is a graceful, hospitable tree, whose history can be traced geologically 60 million years back into the mists of antiquity. The elm's place in the life and affections of America has been secure since New England settlers built homes beneath the spreading branches of trees that reached skyward.

As communities in the Massachusetts Bay Colony developed, and the early settlers moved from Plymouth and Boston to found settlements along the coast and inland to the Berkshires, the pioneering homemakers transplanted elm saplings from the forests to ornament their land and to shade their streets.

As these pioneering settlers moved westward to build a new nation, they shared their patient pilgrimage with the elm, and it is estimated that today more than a billion elms are rooted in American soil between the grey Atlantic and the blue Pacific. Communities in every state of the nation have loyal pride in their elms, and more than 25 million shade and avenue elms now adorn the landscape of the country. The elm tree is truly America's most beloved tree, a tree that shades and blesses a nation of homes.

To the familiar vase and fountain shaped varieties of American elm has now been added a new and inspiring generation — the Augustine Ascending Elm, whose aesthetic grandeur, majestic form, and remarkable health and vitality have won the admiration of a nation of tree lovers. Discovered as a young tree in Normal, Ill., about 20 years ago, the new elm tree was carefully observed, root grafted scions planted under close scientific observation in widely separated areas, and finally released for general planting about five years ago. So outstanding were its attributes that in that short space of time, thousands upon thousands of Augustine Ascending Elms have been planted in over 200 cities in 36 states.

The Augustine Ascending Elm's remarkable health is backed by a firm guarantee against mortality from any virus or fungus such as Dutch elm disease or phloem necrosis, and the variety is widely used to replace other varieties which have died in some areas.

NEW ELM TREE

The Augustine Ascending Elm, developed after 20 years of study, from an unusual tree discovered in Normal, Ill., is a tree that maintains its health and is acclaimed to healthy growth and all parts of the country. Unlike most American elms, it grows in inspiring columnar upright form and does not grow its branches. It has exceptionally strong tap roots, trunk, crotches, and branches.

ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day was inspired by the late J. Sterling Morton and first observed in the State of Nebraska on April 10, 1872. More than a million trees were planted in Nebraska in that first Arbor Day observance. Arbor Day is now observed — on varying dates — in all 48 states of the nation, and has resulted in the planting of millions of trees with an aggregate value of billions of dollars. The aesthetic value of the trees, the increase in property values they have created, and the inspiration they have given to millions of Americans could not be measured in terms of dollars and cents.

Arbor Day observances are arranged by community groups, generally, with anywhere from one to 100 trees being planted at a single ceremony, or several times that number in related ceremonies. Frequently the plantings are dedicated, and appropriate programs are conducted by sponsoring groups.

In recent years, new varieties of shade trees have found much favor for Arbor Day plantings because they represent renewed vitality of tree life, regeneration, and inspiration for the future which is basic to Arbor Day. Among the new varieties in special favor for such plantings is the Augustine Ascending Elm, a mutation of American Elm with unusual characteristics of growth that make it an ideal tree for city plantings, and an inspiring form aesthetically suitable for occasions where spiritual dignity of form is especially appropriate.



Two youthful Augustine Ascending Elms in Normal, Illinois, evidence full development of the variety's inspiring columnar form and compact shape. Dense foliage gives ample shade, but compact growth permits sun to reach thriving lawn. Neat root habits do not disturb surface of soil and permit easy lawn care.

Trees Thrive in Central Areas of Many Cities

Planting of shade trees in central business districts of cities and towns has become increasingly popular since Rockefeller Center started blast. New Yorkers by planting inspiring shade trees above a subway on busy Fifth Avenue.

More recently, Marshall Field and Company planted avenues of trees in the pavement of Chicago's State Street, also on top of a subway, and another noteworthy planting was made on Chicago's "Magnificent Mile," the stretch of Michigan Boulevard north of the Chicago River which is noted for smart hotels, shops, and restaurants.

American elm varieties were chosen for both these Chicago plantings.

Beautification of central business areas has been undertaken also with good results in many smaller cities and towns. Lancaster, Penn., for example; Winnetka and Cicero, Ill.; and many others. In these cities, as well as in many others, Augustine Ascending Elms are now selected for central district plantings because of their upright growth and adaptability to city conditions.

NEW ELM TREE

There is a constant renewing of life by natural selection, the Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association. Fire may destroy forests, insects or diseases invade them, or winds blow them down, but given time, they will build back again.

WILL TO LIVE

The Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association states that when a city tree dies, its death can almost always be traced to some external cause — with human carelessness as the principal one.

NATURE REBUILDS

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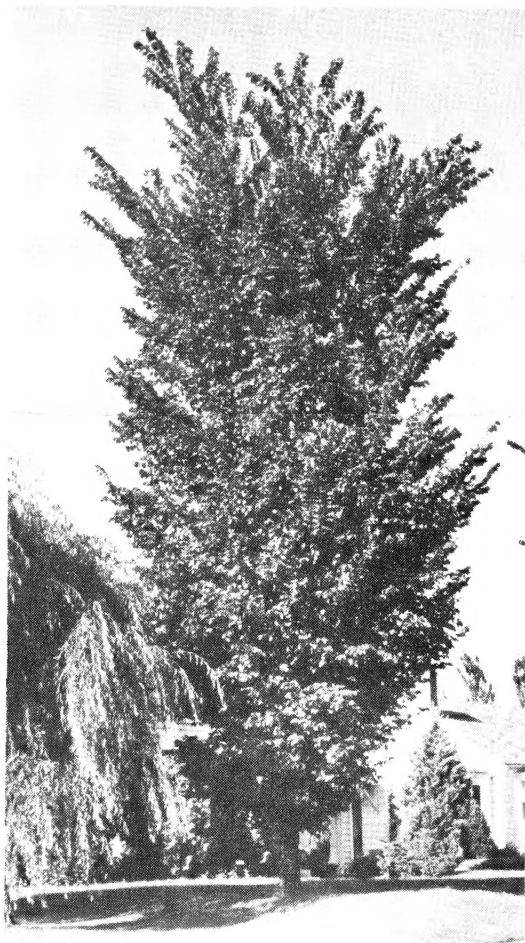
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HORTICULTURE

America's Oldest Garden Magazine



A New Elm

THE Dutch elm disease has been known in the Eastern states since about 1925, while phloem necrosis has attacked the elms of the Midwest since 1938. Several government and professional publications have influenced tree buyers since those times to avoid the planting of elm trees.

In 1946, the Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association was formed in Chicago to propagate and distribute a new type of elm — the Augustine Ascending Elm. With professional opinion about elm trees as it was, the venture to many seemed to be a very foolhardy one. However, Americans' partiality for the elm tree has since then vindicated the Association members' judgment, for today this new elm is found in more than 170 communities in the United States, and some cities, such as Baltimore, have as many as 800 specimens. More than 10,000 Augustine Ascending Elms have been shipped since the Association's inception just seven years ago. What accounts for this remarkable development during years in which thousands of elms were dying?

During the year 1937, Archie Augustine, one of the founders and president of the Illinois State Nurserymen's Association, also a former president of the American Association of Nurserymen, discovered a 17-year-old fastigiate elm tree in Normal, Illinois. Mr. Augustine had long believed that elms, being such ready cross-breeders, one day would be propagated in large numbers only by grafting in order to secure uniform trees for controlled planting. He was immediately struck by the majestic appearance of this tree, and realized after close inspection that it was the elm he had been looking for. He cut some scion wood, and in his research nursery began to propagate it by grafts on American elm roots. The propagation has been taken over by the Association.

The identification of the tree was accomplished by a chromosome count performed by Dr. J. M. Beal, Chairman of the Department of Botany at the University of Chicago. His cytological studies supported botanical descriptions furnished by the U. S. Forestry Service and established the new elm as a tetraploid mutation of American elm. It differs most strikingly from the typical American elm in its fastigiate form. The lateral branches of the

young tree are approximately of the same development and size from tip to base. The older tree develops roughly parallel, wall-like sides to form a stately, upright column of foliage, in marked contrast to the vase, or fountain shape, of the American elm. The Augustine Ascending Elm shows a more vigorous growth, stouter twigs and larger, more deeply-toothed leaves than the American elm. It bears no seed, has neat and compact root habits, a strong anchorage and sturdy trunk.

Dr. J. C. Carter, Chief Pathologist of the Illinois Natural History Survey, has succeeded in getting grafts from trees diseased with phloem necrosis to "take" on young potted Augustine Ascending Elms, and the trees to continue alive. Dr. Roger Swingle, Senior Pathologist of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, reported to the association that "the Augustine Ascending Elm is susceptible to Dutch elm disease." But experiments similar to those of Dr. Swingle's are being performed using grafts from stricken elm.

For further information about this new elm tree, members should write to the Augustine Ascending Elm Research Association, 932 East 50th St., Chicago 15, Ill.

JOHN C. WESTON, JR.,
Chicago, Illinois.

